

Application No.: 10/671,289
Amendment and Response dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of March 5, 2007
Docket No.: 903-86 RCE
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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are pending. Claims 1-8, and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b). Applicant has amended the claims of this application. Dependent claim 5 has been canceled, and independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the limitation of claim 5, specifically including a humectant to lower alcohol weight ratio of between 0.10 and 1.50.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner relies upon U.S. Patent No. 7,052,534 to Taguchi (hereinafter, "Taguchi"), as allegedly anticipating the claims of the present invention. The Examiner asserts that Taguchi discloses the method as set forth in claims 1-7 and the ink composition as set forth in claims 8 and 10-13. The Examiner has apparently withdrawn prior rejections based upon U.S. Patent No. 5,614,008 to Escano and U.S. Patent No. 6,139,611 to Kovacs.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 by asserting that Example 2 of Taguchi describes a humectant to lower alcohol weight ratio as between 0.10 to 1.50. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Example 2 of Taguchi, upon which the Examiner has based his rejection of now-canceled claim 5, is based upon a mixture of diethylene glycol, glycerine, triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, triethanolamine and a surfactant. There is no disclosure of a lower alcohol in Example 2. Accordingly, Example 2 does not describe the ratio as presently claimed between the humectant and the lower alcohol. Taguchi therefore does not disclose an inkjet system wherein the ratio of the humectant and a lower alcohol is between 0.10 and 1.50.

Further, Taguchi discloses a method for printing a substrate with ink which comprises a dye, water, a water-miscible organic solvent and a precursor of an acid. Taguchi provides no detailed information regarding what the "water-miscible organic solvent" is. One skilled in the art would read Taguchi as disclosing that an "ordinary" organic solvent would be used. In support of this reading, Taguchi describes, at column 18, line 43 to column 19, line 3, a long list

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of potentially suitable organic solvents. This list includes alcohols, polyhydric alcohols, ethers and many other types of organic solvents. Many of these organic solvents actually behave and act as humectants.

Taguchi discloses the use of various additives in column 20, lines 31 to 35. These additives include, for instance, surfactants, humectants, dye stabilizers, emulsion stabilizers, antiseptics and fungicides. Taguchi, however, provides no disclosure as to what humectant should be used, nor does it give any indication whatsoever that the amount of humectant should be relatively low as compared to a lower alcohol. Accordingly, Taguchi fails to disclose the invention as presently defined in amended claims 1 and 8, wherein the humectant to lower alcohol ratio is from 0.10 to 1.50.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of the Examiner have been overcome by the present amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested because Taguchi fails to disclose the present invention.

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 8, and all claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art. This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

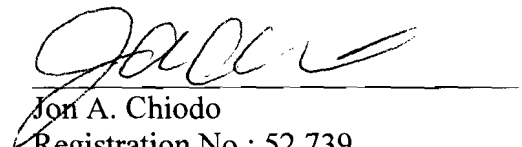
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account

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No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,


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